

COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2023

The meeting was called to order by board chair, Mr. Stone @ 9:30 AM.

Members present: Andy Thomas, Matthew McCullough, Wendell Stone, Paula Scott, Ernestine Thomas-Clark, and Rachel Roberts.

Guest present: Katherine Grant, Jim Hudson, Larry NeSmith, Robert Preston, Wesley Vickers, Princess Zachery, Gloria Wilkerson, and Johnnie Wilkerson

Wendell Stone opened the meeting with prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.

Motion to amend today's agenda and add Larry NeSmith for comments and executive session by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mrs. Scott. All Board Members unanimously agreed.

Motion to accept the agenda for today's meeting and minutes from April 4, 2023 by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mrs. Scott. All Board Members unanimously agreed.

Wesley Vickers is anticipating putting the demolition project out for bids this month, so we will need to move the Elections office within the next 30-45 days to a temporary building which is the old City of Douglas Electric Building. If everything goes as planned the building project should start in mid to late summer and it will be a twelve-month project.

The March 31, 2023 budget was discussed.

Rachel's Updates:

- Currently updating voter files, and registering new voters
- Mentioned different topics to discuss at the possible public forum (voter registration, voter ids, registration deadlines, Etc.)
- My Vacation is May 8th-12th

Katherine Grant mentioned ideas of how to get poll workers for elections. Ms. Grant asked when the Board of Elections was notified about the Data Breach, and questioned whether the breach was discussed at the meeting where Misty Hampton was terminated.

Larry NeSmith discussed the need again for a public forum, to encourage the community to vote.

Jim Hudson mentioned a lawsuit in Fulton County on 12-17-2020 that Coffee County is a part of and asked if the board is aware of it. He also asked for the Board to be transparent with the community. He questioned why Coffee County's attorney backed former board member Eric Chaney when he gave his deposition.

Motion to go into executive session for the discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(b)(2) at 10:28 AM by Mrs. Thomas-Clark and seconded by Mr. McCullough. All Board Members unanimously agreed.

Motion to adjourn executive session at 11:27 AM by Mrs. Thomas-Clark and seconded by Mr. Thomas. All Board Members unanimously agreed.

Mr. Thomas wanted to address Mr. Hudson's concern about the board being transparent, so Mr. McCullough mentioned we could hold forums to educate voters, also keep the public informed about upcoming Elections.

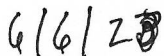
Motion to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Thomas-Clark and seconded by Mrs. Scott. All Board Members unanimously agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

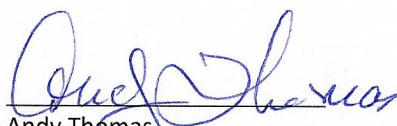
Closing prayer by Mr. McCullough.



Wendell Stone
Chairman



DATE



Andy Thomas
Vice-Chairman



DATE